IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method for triggering and controlling lateral buckling of underwater pipelines by installation of supporting systems positioned in certain points of a seabed, the method comprising:

tilting upper surfaces of supports on which the pipelines rest with respect to a horizontal plane, and transversally with respect to a direction of the pipelines[[,]] such that the pipelines undergo a downward transversal movement on the upper surfaces of the supports caused by

~~wherein the tilting creates~~ a lateral force acting on the pipelines, in relation to a weight of the pipelines and an inclination angle of the upper surfaces~~, which predetermines a direction of a downward transversal movement of the pipelines on the upper surfaces of the supports~~.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

installing the supporting systems in certain points of the seabed;

laying underwater pipelines by resting the pipelines on the upper surfaces of the support.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein the underwater pipelines are rested on the upper surfaces of the support and include funnels

formed by structures present ~~around a higher~~ near an upper end ~~of a carrying structure~~ of the support.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 19, wherein at least part of the structures present ~~around~~ near the ~~higher~~ upper end of the ~~carrying structure~~ support are removed after the pipelines have been rested on the upper surfaces such that only the weight of the pipelines and an inclination angle of the upper surfaces affects the downward transversal movement of the pipelines on the upper surfaces of the supports.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the inclination angle of the upper surfaces with respect to the horizontal plane ranges from 3 to 30°.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the inclination angle ranges from 5 to 15°.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the upper surfaces of the support have a constant inclination.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the upper surfaces of the support have a varying inclination in one or more points.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the upper surfaces of the support include a succession of sections with a varying inclination alternating with horizontal stretches.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein a final section of the upper surfaces of the support are counter-inclined.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the upper surfaces are coated with material having a defined friction coefficient.

Claims 29-32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (New): The method according to claim 17, wherein only the lateral force acting on the pipelines affects the downward transversal movement of the pipelines on the upper surfaces of the supports.

Claim 34 (New): A method for triggering and controlling lateral buckling of underwater pipelines, the method comprising:

installing the supporting systems in certain points of the seabed;

tilting upper surfaces of supports on which the pipelines rest with respect to a horizontal plane, and transversally with respect to a direction of the pipelines;

laying the pipelines by resting the pipelines on the upper surfaces of the support; and

allowing a downward transversal movement of the pipelines on the upper surface of the supports such that only a lateral force related to a weight of the pipelines and an inclination angle of the upper surfaces affects the downward transversal movement of the pipelines on the upper surfaces of the supports.

Claim 35 (New): The method according to claim 34, further comprising:

varying the inclination angle of the upper surfaces of the supports after the pipelines are placed on the supports.

Claim 36 (New): The method according to claim 34, wherein the upper surfaces of the supports include funnels formed near an upper end of the support, and wherein at least part of the funnels near the upper end of the supports are removed after the pipelines have been rested on the upper surfaces such that only the weight of the pipelines and an inclination angle of the upper surfaces affects the downward transversal movement of the pipelines on the upper surfaces of the supports.

Claim 37 (New): The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

varying the inclination angle of the upper surfaces of the supports after the pipelines are placed on the supports.

Claim 38 (New): The method according to claim 34, further comprising:

varying the inclination angle of the upper surfaces of the supports after the pipelines are placed on the supports.